

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-04 DRC-01 /072 W

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O R 310845Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9379

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 12782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ID

SUBJECT: TRANSIT OF USS HANCOCK THROUGH MALACCA STRAIT

1. WHILE ATTENDING OPENING OF UNITED NATIONS BUILDING (FORMERLY U.S. AID BUILDING) TODAY, I WAS ADMONISHED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ADAM MALIK IN FRONT OF PRESS ABOUT TRANSIT BY SEVENTH FLEET UNITS OF STRAIT OF MALACCA WITHOUT NOTIFICATION. IN BANTERING BUT NONETHELESS SHARP EDGED WAY MALIK INQUIRE WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT U.S. NAVY UNITS HAD TRANSITTED MALACCA STRAIT (HE SAID "OUR WATERS IN MALACCA STRAIT") WITHOUT MY NOTIFYING HIM. SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUSLY AND WITH INDONESIAN PRESS EGGING HIM ON, I TOLD MALIK THAT I HAD NO INFORMATION.

2. INDONESIAN PRESS THEREUPON THREW SERIES OF QUESTIONS AT FOREIGN MINISTER AND AT ME. QUESTIONS TO HIM CONCERNED WHETHER HE HAD SENT U.S. FORMAL NOTE OF PROTEST. QUESTIONS TO ME CONCERNED ALLEGED UPI STORY TO EFFECT DOD SOURCES HAD SAID, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PURPOSE OF TRANSIT OF MALACCA STRAIT BY THESE VESSELS WAS TO EXERCISE RIGHT OF FREE PASSAGE OF MALACCA STRAIT. THEY ALSO ASKED ME TO STATE OUR POSITION ON "INNOCENT PASSAGE."

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I EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT ACCURACY UPI STORY AND I SAID

WE HOPED TO RECONCILE VARIOUS INTERESTS, INCLUDING OUR INTEREST IN FREE PASSAGE OF MALACCA STRAIT, IN LOS CONFERENCE.

3. GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WAS GOOD-NATURED AND BANTERING BUT THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE HULLABALOO IN INDONESIAN PRESS AND MALIK IN EFFECT PUT ME ON PUBLIC NOTICE DEMANDING EXPLANATION.

4. COMMENT: THIS PROBLEM COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED BY ROUTINE NOTIFICATION WE HAVE BEEN GIVING AND WHICH HAS BEEN SERVING US WELL. CONFRONTATION ON THIS ISSUE WILL HELP NO ONE. SUGGEST I BE INSTRUCTED TO TELL MALIK VERBALLY WE REGRET DELAY IN GIVING COURTESY INFORMATION TO GOI AND EXPRESS TO MALIK MY HOPE THAT WE CAN AVOID FURTHER PUBLIC AIRING OF THIS ISSUE.
GALBRAITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, INNOCENT PASSAGE, LAW OF THE SEA, USS HANCOCK, MILITARY VISITS, STRAITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JAKART12782
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS GALBRAITH
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973103/aaaaabqx.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <17-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSIT OF USS HANCOCK THROUGH MALACCA STRAIT
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ID, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005